

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 7, 8 - 11, and 21 - 31 are pending.

Claims 7 - 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 for allegedly being indefinite.

Claims 1 - 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) for allegedly being anticipated by Lei et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,487,552.

Claim 7 has been amended to correct the Section 112 Rejection.

An aspect of the present invention as recited in previously presented claims 5, 7, 14, and 17 relates to modifying the column references in a SELECT statement. This aspect of the present invention is clearly illustrated in the example shown in Fig. 13. The figure shows the result of modifying the column references in an original SELECT statement (shown in Fig. 11). The pending claims have been amended to more clearly recite this aspect of the present invention, incorporating the subject matter of earlier-filed claims.

Lei et al. do not show this particular aspect of the present invention. It is known by those of ordinary skill that a SELECT statement comprises a "select" clause and "from" clause; a "where" clause is optional. Lei et al. show a technique in which they modify an original SELECT statement by adding a "where" clause. Kindly refer to column 14 of the Lei et al. reference. They show an example in which an original query Q3 that accesses a table "t". Lei et al. modify the query to produce a query Q4, which includes a "where" clause.

By comparison, the present invention as recited in the pending claims takes a received query and modifies the "select" clause to produce a modified query. This is shown in Figs. 11 and 13 of the pending application. In fact, it can be seen that the "where" clause is not modified at all. Lei et al. do not show modifying the "select" clause.

The Section 102 rejection of the claims is believed to be overcome.

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PATENT

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



George B.F. Yee
Reg. No. 37,478

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 650-326-2400
Fax: 415-576-0300
GBFY:cmm
60251486 v1